AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as indicated below. Deleted text appears as ~~struck-through~~ and inserted text appears underlined.

At page 6, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 1~~ FIG. 1 depicts the amino acid sequence of a flt-3 ligand (SEQ ID NO:1). --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 2~~ FIG. 2 depicts the amino acid sequence of a stem cell factor (SEQ ID NO:2). --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 3~~ FIG. 3 depicts the amino acid sequence of an IL-6 (SEQ ID NO:3). --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 4~~ FIG. 4 depicts the amino acid sequence of an IL-4 (SEQ ID NO:4). --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 5~~ FIG. 5 depicts the amino acid sequence of an IL-3 (SEQ ID NO:5). --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 6A and 6B~~ FIGS. 6A and 6B depict activation of the cultured human mast cells (CHMC's). ~~Figure~~ FIG. 6A shows hexosaminidase enzymatic activity, a traditional measure of mast cell degranulation, following activation with anti-IgE at 1:250, anti-IgE at 1:1000, or 2 μM ionomycin ("Iono"). Activation by anti-IgE represents physiologic activation, and activation by ionomycin represents non-physiological (maximum) activation. ~~Figure~~ FIG. 6B depicts tryptase enzymatic activity, and demonstrates the utility of using tryptase enzyme activity assay to monitor degranulation of the CHMC's of the invention. --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--~~Figures 7A-7C~~ FIGS. 7A, 7B, and 7C depict characterization of CHMC's generated from three separate individuals. The separate populations, CHMC.1, CHMC.2 and CHMC.3 were characterized with cell surface markers known to be lineage specific for mast cells (IgE receptor, CD54, CD117) or lineage negative for mast cells (CD11b and CD25), as well as CD13 and CD14, which have variable expression patterns in mast cells. --

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--~~Figures 8A-8G~~ FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F and 8G depict degranulation, leukotriene, and cytokine production profiles of CHMC's stimulated via cross-linking the high affinity IgE receptors on CHMC's using rabbit anti-human IgE polyclonal antibody. ~~Figures~~ FIGS. 8A, 8B, and 8C show degranulation as measured by hexosaminidase activity, tryptase activity and

histamine release, respectively, in the culture supernatant of unstimulated or stimulated CHMC's (performed in triplicate). ~~Figures~~ FIG. 8D depicts leukotriene-4 (LTC4) generation from unstimulated and stimulated CHMC's. ~~Figures~~ FIGS. 8E-8G depict ELISA results for IL-5, IL-13 and TNF-alpha, respectively, from culture supernatant of unstimulated and stimulated CHMC's. "SNT" refers to supernatant; "Post X-link" means following the crosslinking step with antibody..—

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figures 9A-9D depict~~ FIG. 9, panels A-D, depicts results of cell-surface marker characterization of mucosal CHMC's. --